Recent Hike in Fertilizer prices in Karnataka

512. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE; be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka has been wrost affected due to the recent hike in fertilizer prices as reported in India Today of 15th Feb, ruary, 1993; and

(b) if so, whether Government would come to the rescue of the small and marginal farmers in the State by providing the State Government with adequate funds to ope rate the fertilizer concession scheme atleast till 1993.94?

THE MINISTER OP STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) There has been a decline in the consumption of decontrolled fertili sers in Karnataka as compared to previous Rabi season. The Central Government released Rs. 17.53 crores to Karnataka for extending concession on the sale of decontrolled fertilisers to all farmers. In addu tion, a sum of Rs. 36.90 crores has been earmarked towards schemes to benefit small & marginal farmers during the current year out of which Rs. 15.70 crores has so far been released to the State Government. No decision has been taken by the Government to extend the concession for 1993-94.

New Crop Insurance Scheme

513. DR BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce a New Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details therof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have a proposal to introduce the scheme as a pilot projecr in one district of each State,

(d) if so, the state-wise names of such districts; and (

(e) by when the scheme is propoc; ed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM); (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It has been devided (that while the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Schem (CCIS) may continue, a plot scheme charging ac-turial rates of premia and covering all farmers and all crops may be implemented in one district of every State, preferably at low unit areas.

(d) and (e): The details of the scheme and identification of districts are yet to be finalised.

Demand and Supply of Edible Oil

514. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a wide gap between the demand and supply of edible oil in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to increase the production of oil seeds; and

(d) what other steps are being taken to bridge the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b): The gap betwen demand and supply of edible oils in the country has narrowed down during the past